



Welcome to the March edition of the Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club Newsletter! We'll try to keep you up-to-date with what's happening this month and any future events we're planning or are aware of. This newsletter is automatically distributed to club members, prospective future students who have reached out to us in the last year, and other interested amateur operators in the region. If you do not wish to receive these monthly newsletters, let us know and we can remove you from our distribution list. Alternatively, if you are not included on the mailing list, but would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, please reach out to our secretary.

March Club Meeting - March 5th, Stratford Town Center

March is here and spring is definitely on its way. Our next monthly meeting is coming up on Tuesday, March 5th, at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you're a licensed radio operator and would like to become a member, or you're perhaps interested in becoming licensed and would like to find out more about us and the hobby, then please come and join us. We would love to meet you. For anyone who would like to become a member, membership dues are \$30 for 2024 for those who are not currently members of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). For RAC members, it's \$20 for the year. Our students and graduates from the fall 2023 class are automatically members of the club. Our meetings run from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (1900-2100) in the Southport room at the Stratford Town Center on Shakespeare Drive. Alongside monthly club reports we usually enjoy an information exchange. Over the last few months we've learned about alternate power options for radio operations, 3D printing, SDRs, HF antennas in the field, the April 2024 solar eclipse, and Parks on the Air Activations. Our next series on information exchanges will be on the topic of contesting.

Spring 2024 Basic Licensing Course

We're currently finalizing all the details for our next basic licensing course due to start later this month. We're planning for 16 sessions over 8 weeks, starting around March 18th, 2024, and running until early May around May 9th. Classes will most likely take place on Mondays and Thursdays at the Red Cross offices in Charlottetown. We will update you once we have confirmed the dates. If you're interested in taking part, then please reach out to Brent VY2HF or email us at the email address at the bottom of this newsletter.

Clock Changes - March 10th, 2024

The clocks are about to spring forward again. Mark it down in your calendars: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. AT on March 10th.

RCAF Event - April 2024

The 1st of April 2024 marks 100 years of service for the Royal Canadian Air Force as a distinct military element here in Canada. In honour of this centennial celebration the Western Prince Edward Island Amateur Radio Club (VY2WPE) is sponsoring the special callsign VY2RCAF for the entire month of April. Other registered and confirmed callsigns for this event so far are VE3RCAF, VE9RCAF, and VE7RCAF. VE5 is in the process of registering. Nothing so far for VE1, VE6, and VE8.

The VY2 "Royal Canadian Air Force" 2024 special event operators will be Dave (VY2FU) on Phone, Doug (VY2DS) on FT8, Bill (VY2LI) on RTTY, Bob (VY2NX) on Phone, and Lowell (VY2OX) on CW. For more information, please email vy2rcaf@gmail.com

Meetings and Events Calendar - March

2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Virtual Breakfast 2M nets, 8:00 A.M. (800) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)
4: 2M Simplex net, at 8:00 P.M. (2000) on 146.550 MHz, hosted by Joel, VY2KW
5: Monthly club meeting
6, 13, 20, 27: Wednesday night 2M net, 7:30 P.M. (1930) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)
7, 14, 21, 28: Thursday night HF nets, on 3727 LSB (+/- QRM) at 7:00 P.M. (2000)

Future Events

March 4-5: **International DX Phone contest** <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

April: **RCAF Centennial Event**

April 8: **Total Solar Eclipse over PEI**. <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2024-april-8>

April 18: **World Amateur Radio Day**: <https://www.rac.ca/world-amateur-radio-day/>

April 25-26: **NEAR-Fest in Deerfield, NH**. <https://near-fest.com/>

May 4: **SMART24**: <https://sites.google.com/view/smartwestcumbarc/home>

May 17-19: **Dayton Hamvention** <https://hamvention.org/>

June 22-23: **Field Day**

July 6: **Cape Bear Lighthouse Event** (currently in planning stage)

Help Us Out!

Do you have something you would like to contribute to this newsletter? Drop us an email at secretary@charlottetownarc.com.